

## **I. Introduction.**

The City has completed a new four-year Consolidated Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD requires a new Plan if the City is to continue to qualify for certain HUD funding resources. These include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs. HUD also requires that applications for several other federal funding programs include a certification of compliance with a HUD approved Consolidated Plan.

The purpose of the Plan is to develop and disclose a comprehensive strategy for addressing the City's Housing and Community Development (HCD) needs over a four-year period. HCD needs include housing rehabilitation and acquisition, affordable housing construction, public facility improvements, crime awareness, programs to assist the homeless, and economic development. In this Plan, HUD requires that HCD five year needs are quantified to the extent feasible; priorities are established; and action plans are developed. The City has decided to do a four year plan to better coordinate with the timing of the release of census data. For each year included in this Plan, the City will conduct an evaluation and publish a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which is an evaluation of plan outcomes. An annual action plan for implementing the Consolidated Plan will be developed and adopted separately by City Council. It is important to note that the needs' assessment is community based and includes programs, such as Section 8 and child care, that are not provided or administered by the City.

With the adopted Plan, the City may receive as much as \$44 million in CDBG, HOME and ESG grants over four years. Although these grants only fund a portion of the City's HCD needs, they are critical to the continuation of a number of programs implemented by various City departments, nonprofits and other organizations. This Plan will be used as a resource when applying for other federal, state, local and private foundation funds. Programs will leverage more than \$40 million in private capital each year.

The emphasis of this Plan is on programs that benefit low income households. Housing cost burdens, family size, homelessness or the threats of homelessness, and the special needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities, are important considerations. The provision of safe, decent and liveable neighborhoods and dwellings is a priority. Programs include public infrastructure and accessibility upgrades, neighborhood revitalization, Problem Oriented Policing, code enforcement and capital improvements.

Throughout the report, references are made to CDBG eligible (target) areas. These target areas are primarily south of McKinley Avenue and west of Chestnut Avenue. Other areas

include Highway City, Pinedale, El Dorado Park, and a number of scattered neighborhoods in northwest and northeast Fresno (See Map 1, CDBG Eligible Areas).

Because U. S. Census data is ten years old, and new data will not be available until 2003, HUD is permitting jurisdictions to use the statistics and needs assessments in the prior five-year Consolidated Plan. Nevertheless, the City has endeavored to collect some new information from the Fresno community so that the Plan can be more current and effective. This included the conduct of an extensive community outreach effort. The information gathered through the latter effort has been analyzed and used in Plan development.

As HUD intends, this report covers annual periods from July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2004. These are the time periods used in HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). Also, it is the period used by the City when referring to Fiscal Years 2001 through 2004. However, the City's official time frame for the CAPER, and IDIS is July 15, 2001 through July 14, 2004. This report references either time frame, as applicable.

The Plan includes an Executive Summary; a description of the citizens' participation process; a disclosure and evaluation of housing and community development needs; a prioritization of needs; a housing and community development strategy, and a four-year action plan.

Map 1 - CDBG Eligible Areas

